

fore the Territorial court, but the court decided that there was no evidence that Burr had committed any offense within the boundaries over which it had jurisdiction. Burr fled from the Territory, but Wilkinson sent officers after him, and he was arrested in Alabama and carried thence to Richmond, Virginia. On March 30th, he came before Justice Marshall, who was presiding over the District court, for examination and commitment. George Hay, the Attorney of the District, made charges of treason and misdemeanor against him. The Judge dismissed the former, but put him under heavy bonds to answer the second charge at the next session of the court, beginning May 22nd. Before the collapse of the conspiracy had been announced in the East, the wildest rumors as to Burr's strength were afloat. Jefferson, however, affected throughout to regard the conspiracy as trivial. In his annual message, in December, he dismissed the whole matter in a few words. His private correspondence, also, was of the calmest tone. "Burr's enterprise," he wrote to Charles Clay, "is the most extraordinary since the days of Don Quixote. It is so extravagant that those who know his understanding would not believe it if the proofs admitted doubt. He has meant to place himself on the throne of Montezuma, and extend his empire to the Alleghany, seizing on New Orleans as the instrument of compulsion for our Western States. *I think his undertaking effectually crippled by the activity of the Ohio.*" The country, however, was not so well satisfied. John Randolph moved for information from the President, and on January 22nd, 1807, Jefferson sent to Congress a special message narrating the whole conspiracy from the September preceding and naming Burr as its central figure. This was the date when, he claimed, he had first heard of Burr's course. It cannot be decided whether he was now for the first time sincerely convinced of Burr's treason to the United States, or merely thought this the first favorable opportunity to make the matter public. At any rate, he had never before expressed the idea that the movement was "an illegal combination of private individuals against the peace and safety of the Union." The message, so far from allaying the excitement of the country, served only